

# Webster sees Soviet push to get Western technology

By Mark Matthews  
Washington Bureau of The Sun

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union, in a "race against the future" with less money available for its military, has become "more aggressive" in gathering intelligence and is making "heavy efforts" to obtain Western technology. William H. Webster, director of central intelligence, said yesterday.

"They are more aggressive but less confrontational," Mr. Webster said. "They are not seeking situations which would advertise their activity, but we find them everywhere. There's been no pulling back in intelligence collection in this country or in other parts of the world."

Mr. Webster did not refer directly to the case of Lt. Col. Yuri N. Pakhtusov, a Soviet military attache recently ousted by the United States after allegedly obtaining classified documents from a U.S. company, but he said the United States understands the reasons for the Soviets' new push.

"When you begin to race against the future and have less resources for the military or opportunities for surprise, the more you need to know more," Mr. Webster said.

"And when you're trying to keep up with technology, you need more of it, and that means heavy efforts in the technology transfer area, and that's what we're finding."

At the same time, he said, there are signs "on the edges" of some move toward glasnost, or openness, in the intelligence area, including suggestions that Moscow and Washington might work together against terrorism.

Mr. Webster said that some information can't be shared with the Soviets but that a clear case of violence against innocents, such as the December bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland, could form the basis for "some kinds of discussions."

Responding to questions on a variety of subjects, the CIA chief:

□ Declined to confirm the Soviet sale of high-performance bombers and refueling capability to Libya but said such a sale would fit the pattern of Libyan leader Muammar el Kadhafi's bid to gain a "strategic advantage" in the region. He said the need for "hard cash" would be a likely So-



WILLIAM H. WEBSTER  
CIA director

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viet motive and noted that the Soviets have a long history of trafficking with Libya.

□ Backed off an earlier estimate that Libya is "nearly ready to begin large-scale production of chemical agents and munitions," saying things had "not gone well" at the chemical weapons plant at Rabta after the international spotlight was turned on suppliers. But he said that there is no indication Colonel Kadhafi has abandoned his plans and that he "may very well be close to achieving something."

□ Said that possession of chemical and biological weapons capability — coupled with missiles — by small nations "presents a very destabilizing threat to our own security" and that the United States has to look for new ways to cope with the problem.

□ Said U.S. seizures of terrorists and strikes against narcotics traffickers in other countries should not be ruled out but should be worked out in cooperation with the other governments involved if they support "the rule of law."

Mr. Webster said that Eastern Europe and the turbulent Soviet ethnic republics could be President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's "Achilles' heel" and that the failure of his economic policies to yield gains in living conditions makes him vulnerable.

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